

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-11. (Withdrawn).

12. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic assay for detecting or screening of therapeutic compounds or molecules that interfere with the interaction between SYNIP and syntaxin-4 or other ligands that bind to SYNIP, comprising the step of measuring the interaction between SYNIP and syntaxin-4 or other ligands that bind to SYNIP, while in the presence of at least one ~~other~~ therapeutic compound or molecule.

13. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic assay for discovery of proteins that interact directly or indirectly with SYNIP, comprising the step of interaction of SYNIP ~~or cDNA encoding SYNIP~~ with proteins in mammalian cells.

14-20. (Withdrawn).

21. (New) An assay as recited in claim 12, wherein said assay includes a substantially purified recombinant polypeptide having an amino acid sequence substantially similar to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:5.

22. (New) An assay as recited in claim 12, wherein said assay includes a substantially purified recombinant polypeptide having an amino acid sequence comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:5.

23. (New) An assay as recited in claim 12, wherein said assay includes a protein having an amino acid sequence substantially similar to SEQ ID NO: 2.

24. (New) An assay as recited in claim 12, wherein said assay includes a protein having an amino acid sequence substantially similar to SEQ ID NO: 5.

25. (New) An assay as recited in claim 12, wherein said assay includes a protein having an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 2.

26. (New) An assay as recited in claim 12, wherein said assay includes a protein having an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 5.